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~~ANTI-CCR5 ANTIBODIES AND METHODS OF USE THEREFOR~~

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to an antibody or functional portion thereof which binds to a mammalian (e.g., human) CC-chemokine receptor 5 protein (CKR-5 or
5 CCR5) or portion of the receptor. The invention further relates to a method of inhibiting the interaction of a cell bearing mammalian CCR5 with a ligand thereof. Another aspect of the invention relates to a method of inhibiting HIV infection of a cell which expresses a mammalian CCR5 or portion thereof using the antibodies described herein. Also encompassed by the present invention are methods of treating or
10 preventing HIV in a patient.

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